

## CLAIMS

1. A vacuum cleaner comprising a nozzle unit having a nozzle, an electric blower for sucking air, a suction air passage provided between the nozzle unit and the electric blower, and a cyclone dust collector, arranged in the suction air passage, for separating dust by  
5 making sucked air into a whirling stream,

wherein the cyclone dust collector comprises a dust collection chamber, having an inlet port through which to introduce the sucked air, for collecting separated dust, a lid for opening and closing the dust collection chamber, and an exhaust cylinder through which to discharge the sucked air.

2. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the exhaust cylinder is detachable from the lid.

3. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising exhaust cylinder  
15 detecting means for detecting that the exhaust cylinder is located in a predetermined position, wherein the electric blower is controlled according to a result of detection by the exhaust cylinder detecting means.

4. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a shielding  
20 member with which a stream of air inside the dust collection chamber is made to collide to separate dust.

5. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 4, wherein the lid, the exhaust cylinder, and the shielding member are integrally detachable from the dust collection chamber.

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6. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exhaust cylinder is arranged above the shielding member and substantially on a center line of the dust collection chamber.

5 7. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 4, wherein the shielding member has a circular portion having a substantially circular shape and arranged inside the dust collection chamber with a gap secured from an inner wall thereof and a protruding portion formed so as to protrude downward from a periphery of the circular portion.

10 8. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 7, wherein the shielding member has a plurality of shielding ribs arranged radially on a bottom surface of the circular portion so as to protrude downward therefrom.

15 9. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 8, wherein, between two adjacent shielding ribs, a projection rib is formed so as to protrude from the inner wall of the dust collection chamber toward a center thereof.

20 10. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cyclone dust collector is integrally detachable from the suction passage.

11. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 10, further comprising dust collector detecting means for detecting that the cyclone dust collector is located in a predetermined position, wherein the electric blower is controlled according to a result of detection by the

dust collector detecting means.

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